

Once Upon a Time

EVERY WEDNESDAY

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The little Swan Maiden ...
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The Three Soldiers



1. Having greedily eaten one of the magic apples belonging to the three soldiers, Princess Griselda woke up one morning with a nose fifty times as long as it should be. "Oh, what a horrid sight I look," she wailed. "Can no one cure me?" One soldier, disguised as a doctor, said that he would try.



2. But instead of giving the Princess a magic pear, which could cure her, he gave her another bite of the nose-growing apple. Next morning, the Princess's nose was twice as long as it was before and the King was most upset. "I beg of you to find a cure for her," he said.



3. The soldier thought about this and then shook his head, as a doctor might do when baffled by an ailment. "Your Majesty, it seems that something works against my cure and is too strong for it," he said. "However, I think I know what it is. Your daughter has some goods which do not belong to her, and if she does not give them back I can do nothing."



4. The King knew that this was indeed the truth, for Princess Griselda had cunningly stolen three magic things from the three soldiers—a purse, a cloak and a music horn. So he marched back to the bedroom. "Griselda," he told his daughter, "it is your own fault that your nose cannot be made shorter. Send back the purse, the cloak and the music horn."



5. Later that day when the "doctor" soldier called again to see the Princess, her servant had collected the three things. "Ah, that is most excellent," the soldier said. "I will see that they are returned to their rightful owners. Meanwhile you can give the Princess this ripe pear to cure her long nose."



6. The pear, of course, was a magic one and it was also the only known cure for long noses. Princess Griselda was eager to try it and by the time the doctor left the castle, she was up and dressed and delighted because her nose was again its right size. "Thankyou, doctor, for your cure," she said.



7. As soon as she was out of the castle, the soldier slipped on the magic cloak and wished himself back with his two companions. You can imagine how overjoyed they were to see him. "Now we are back where we started . . . with the magic means to keep us in great wealth," they chuckled.

8. The first thing they wished for was a stream of gold coins from the magic purse and with this they bought a fine and stately coach, with horses and driver. Then they set off across the countryside through the flowering trees to look for fresh adventures. And so we wish them luck and leave them.

Starting next week in *Once Upon A Time . . .* the delightful story of *Alice in Wonderland*.

All Sorts of grow in



HYACINTH

These sweet-scented plants grow well in special glass containers of water—rain-water is best.



FROG BIT

A floating water plant which grows wild in Britain and Europe. It flowers in the Summer.



WATER SOLDIER

A plant with sword-shaped leaves and greenish-white flowers.



YELLOW WATER LILY

There are several kinds of water lilies. They grow best in ponds or pools not less than 2 feet deep.



ARROWHEAD

Gets its name from the shape of its leaves and produces buttercup-like flowers.



Plants that water



PAPER WHITES



WATER VIOLET

This attractive water plant belongs to the Primula family.



BOG BEAN

A beautiful plant which grows wild in ponds.



**WHITE WATER
LILY**



PERSICARIA

A plant which has a spike of flowers.





BRER RABBIT

This week . . . Brer Rabbit fools Brer Fox

ONE DAY, Brer Fox and Brer Wolf happened to meet each other, as they were walking along the road.

They got to talking about this and that, and naturally the talk turned to Brer Rabbit. Finally, it came out that Brer Rabbit had tricked Brer Wolf into hiding in his chest when the dogs were after him and Brer Wolf told Brer Fox how that wicked rabbit had drilled holes in the lid of the chest and poured hot water on him.

Brer Fox said nothing, but he decided that Brer Rabbit was a tricky enemy to have, and he thought perhaps he ought to leave Brer Rabbit alone for a bit.

Brer Rabbit played no tricks on Brer Fox and Brer Fox didn't try to catch Brer Rabbit, and after a time, the two animals became quite friendly. Sometimes, Brer Fox would even call on Brer Rabbit in the evening and the two animals chatted away as if there had never been any bad feeling between them at all.

One day, Brer Fox decided to go hunting, so he went and called for Brer Rabbit and asked him to go along too. It was a hot day and Brer Rabbit felt lazy. "Some other time, Brer Fox," he said. "Today I just want to sit in the sun."

Brer Fox went off by himself and he had such good luck that by the end of the day he had a bag full of fat, juicy ducks. When evening came, he put his bag over his shoulder and set off home. "I have done well," he said to himself. "That'll teach that lazy rabbit. He should have come with me, instead of dozing in the sun all day."

Now Brer Rabbit was just beginning to stir because it was getting chilly. He sat up and looked around. "I wonder what sort of a day Brer Fox has had?" he said to himself.

He got up to see if there was any sign of Brer Fox,

then he walked along the road and climbed on to a tree stump, and from there, Brer Rabbit saw Brer Fox coming along the path, singing at the top of his voice and carrying a bag over his shoulder.

"That bag looks mighty fat to me," Brer Rabbit murmured to himself. "It looks as if it could be just packed with fine, fat ducks."

That crafty rabbit got down from the stump of his tree and lay down in the road, still and quiet, pretending to be dead.

Quite soon, along came Brer Fox. He stopped and stared when he saw what he thought was a dead rabbit in his path, never dreaming that it was artful Brer Rabbit.

"Well, well, here's a dead rabbit. Just fancy that," said Brer Fox, turning Brer Rabbit over with his foot. "He may have been dead a long time, so I won't take him home with me."

Brer Rabbit didn't say anything and Brer Fox went on and left him lying there.

Brer Rabbit waited until Brer Fox had disappeared round a bend in the road, then picked himself up, ran through the woods until he was in front of Brer Fox and lay in the road pretending to be dead again.

When Brer Fox saw another rabbit, lying there in the road, looking as dead as could be, he could hardly believe his eyes. "I think I'll just put down my game-bag and go back to fetch the other rabbit," he said.

Putting down his game-bag, Brer Fox went off, back along the road after the other rabbit. Now of course, this was just what crafty Brer Rabbit was after. As soon as Brer Fox was out of sight, he picked up that game-bag, slung it over his shoulder and off he went home, licking his lips happily.

Of course, Brer Fox found no dead rabbit and when he got back mighty puzzled, he found no game-bag either and then he knew he had been tricked.

Next time Brer Rabbit saw Brer Fox, he called out, "Did you catch anything the other day, Brer Fox?"

"Why yes. I caught a lot of good, sound commonsense, Brer Rabbit," said Brer Fox sourly.

Brer Rabbit only laughed. "Why, if I'd known that was what you were after, I'd have let you have some of mine and then you needn't have gone to all that trouble, Brer Fox," he chuckled. And off he went, lickety split down the road.

**Another chuckle with artful Brer Rabbit
in next week's story.**



Some Strange Rocks



Rain and wind-blown sand can wear down rocks into many different shapes and some of them are very unusual. Above you will see the balancing rock in the Garden of the Gods, Colorado, U.S.A. The softer rock at the bottom has worn away, leaving a small piece on which the rock balances.



Another strange rock can be seen in Utah, U.S.A. It is called a natural arch, and as you can see from the picture, the rock has worn away in the middle. This may have been caused by an ancient river running through the centre of the rock and wearing it away.



Stalactites and Stalagmites are caused when water, containing minerals, drips for thousands of years. Stalactites look like icicles because they hang down from cave roofs, and Stalagmites look like spikes growing up from the ground.

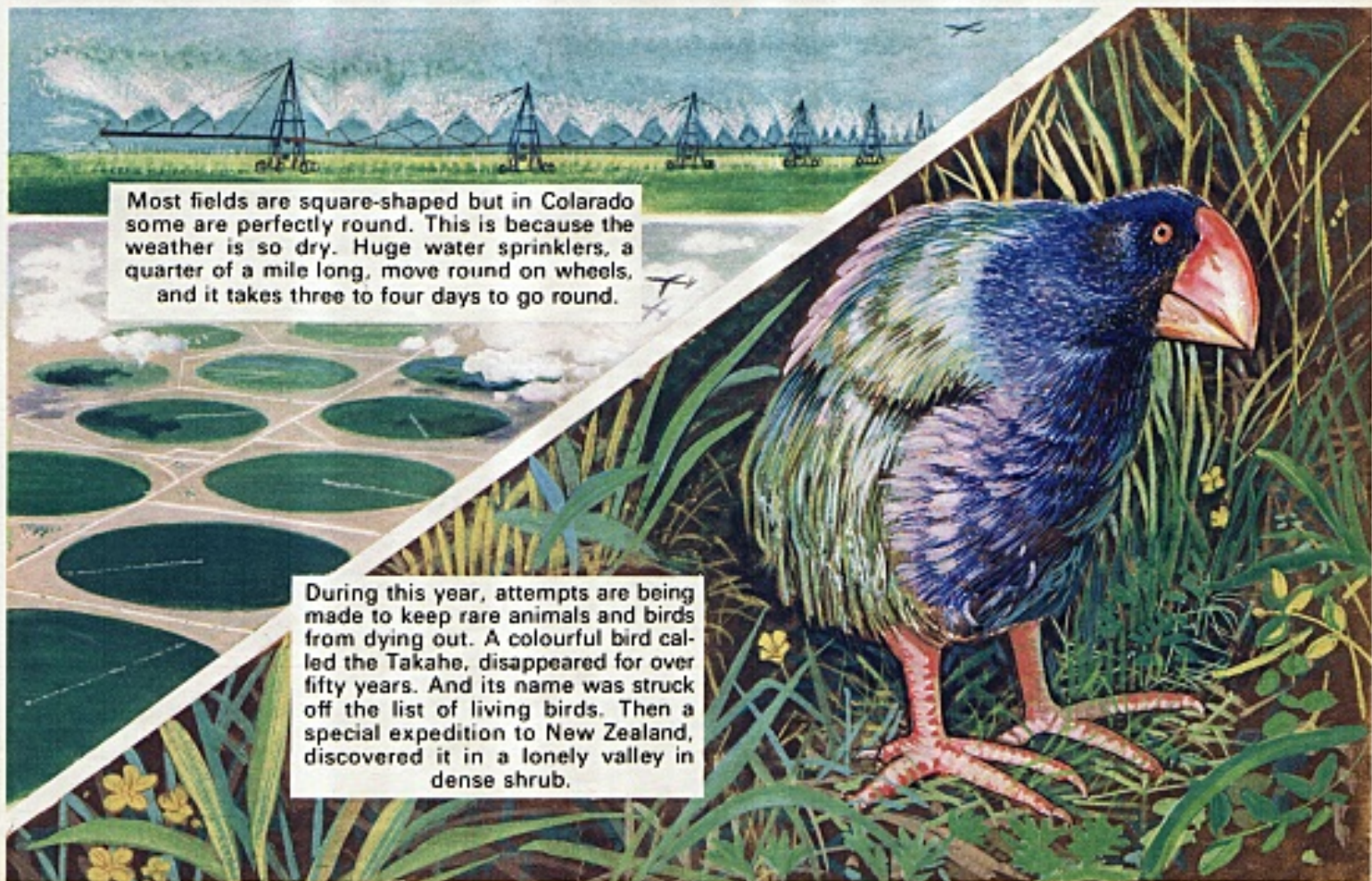


When a volcano erupts, the lava that pours from it hardens as it cools. In time these rocks crack, some into fantastic shapes, and form basalt columns. The ones above are called The Giant's Causeway, which is in Northern Ireland.

Well, Fancy That!



This bear cub looks as if he is catching live salmon from the river. But in fact he is not—most of the work has already been done for him. In Alaska, the big bears learn to catch big, fat salmon, but they become so used to it, that they only eat the roe, letting the dead fish slip back into the stream. Farther down the river, the bear cub has only to grab the fish.



Most fields are square-shaped but in Colorado some are perfectly round. This is because the weather is so dry. Huge water sprinklers, a quarter of a mile long, move round on wheels, and it takes three to four days to go round.

During this year, attempts are being made to keep rare animals and birds from dying out. A colourful bird called the Takahe, disappeared for over fifty years. And its name was struck off the list of living birds. Then a special expedition to New Zealand, discovered it in a lonely valley in dense shrub.

This is a Memory Test. When you have read the story turn to page 16 and try to answer the questions about it.

David Copperfield goes to school

HAVE you ever heard of Charles Dickens? He was a very famous story-writer, who died in 1870, and is buried in Westminster Abbey in London.

Of the many stories he wrote, his favourite was called David Copperfield. Here on these pages is a truly wonderful picture of something that happened to David Copperfield.

You can see young David, when he was about eight years old. He is leaving an inn and walking out to take his seat in a coach, which will take him to a boarding school named Salem House.

In this part of the story, the author describes what happened to David Copperfield when he stopped at the inn, to have lunch.

The waiter is rather an artful rogue (you can see him in the picture) and he brings David an enormous meal of lamb chops and a glass of strong beer.

"This beer is old and should never have been poured from the cask," the waiter says. "There was a gentleman in here yesterday who ordered this beer, drank it down and then fell dead. It was much too powerful for him."

"In that case I don't think I'll drink any," said David.

This is what the waiter hoped he would say. "I daren't take it back to be wasted," he said. "So I suppose I must drink it for you."

This the waiter did and then he helped David Copperfield to eat the food as well—and the result of all this was that when David walked out to the coach, everybody came out to stare at him.

"It's a wonder that he can move," they said, quite believing that the little lad had eaten every bit of the enormous meal.

Poor David Copperfield—he was really still very hungry!





The little Swan Maiden



1. One day a long while ago, a mother swan was gliding along a still river when she came upon a tiny baby hidden in the reeds. "She is so small," thought the swan. "She must have been left there by the fairy folk. I shall bring her up with my own children."



2. The swan gave the little girl the name of Gilda and as she grew up she became more and more beautiful. All day long Gilda would play with the cygnets, or float about on their mother's back. "How happy I am," Gilda would smile, and never once did she wish to be with people of her own kind.



3. One day when Gilda was fully grown, but still only about twelve inches high, a shepherd boy saw her on the river bank and at once fell in love with her. He asked her to marry him, but Gilda replied, "Oh, no! You are too big."



4. The shepherd boy was very unhappy. So he went to the Wise Old Woman of the Woods for her help. She gave him a magic drink that would make him shrink. "But I warn you," she told him. "Nothing can ever change you back."



5. The shepherd boy was only too pleased when he became small in size, and he hurried to Gilda. "Now will you marry me?" he asked. Gilda shook her head sadly. "Shepherd boy, you are very handsome and just the right size for me, but I am not in love with you," she said.



7. The swan beat her strong wings so that she rose as high as the eagle. The shepherd boy pulled open the bird's great claws and Gilda fell on to the soft back of the mother swan. "Thankyou, brave shepherd boy," she said.



6. At that moment a great eagle spied Gilda and swooping down, caught her up in its claws. "You will be a playmate for my young eaglets," it said and soared up into the sky. "Help!" Gilda shouted. "Don't worry," called the shepherd boy, leaping on to the back of the mother swan.



8. The shepherd boy's bravery made Gilda fall in love with him. Soon they were married and they lived beside the river. And because the shepherd boy was now too small to mind sheep, he became minder of the baby swans instead.



Beautiful Paintings

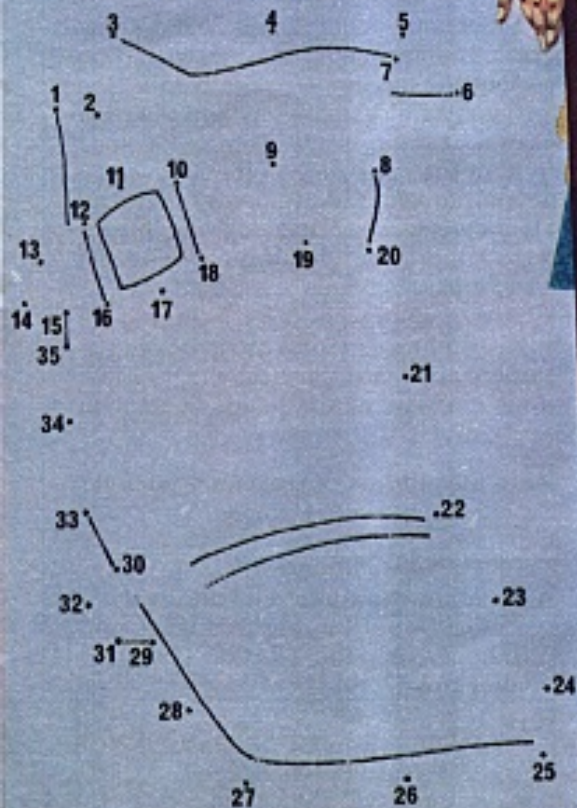
Many readers of Once Upon A Time have written to the Editor, asking if separate copies can be supplied of the Beautiful Paintings which are printed each week. Sad to say, this is not possible because of printing problems. If requested, art galleries will supply their own special prints, but each of these would cost a few pounds, so it is much cheaper and almost as good to cut them

out of Once Upon A Time. This week's lovely picture was painted by an Italian artist named Raffaele Sorbi, who came from the city of Florence. It is called "The Promenade of the Grand Duke Leopoldo" and it shows how a very important and rich person of Italy would set out in all his finery with his superb coach and attendants to show himself to the people. (Copyright Raffaele Sorbi, Florence)

King William the Third

The revolution that took place in England in 1688, caused King James the Second to lose the throne, and William of Orange was asked to replace him as King William the Third of England. He and 14,000 men landed in Torbay, Devon, from Holland, on the 5th of November, 1688 and practically the whole of England supported him. His wife Mary, elder daughter of King James the Second, and himself, were crowned joint sovereigns in 1689. Ireland, however did not like the new king and queen and when James fled to Ireland after the "Glorious Revolution", as it was called, the Irish and French sided with him against England and Scotland. Ten years of bitter fighting followed and at the Battle of Boyne, James was defeated by William.

The shoes of this period looked very much like boots, having a very high front with a flap, and rounded toes. To draw a man's shoe, join the dots from 1 to 35 in the puzzle below. Join the dots from 1 to 45 to draw a pistol. This type of fire-arm would probably have been used at the Battle of Boyne.





The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse

This week . . . Bertie makes another Stephanie.

"SHALL we go and visit Stephanie and Nigel?" said Bertie, to his girl friend, Winifred. "Nigel drove that tractor for me when I hurt my arm and I thought perhaps we could do something for them."

Winifred thought this was a very good idea. "We'll get ready and catch the next train to town," she said.

When they reached Stephanie's smart town house, they saw Nigel's big car parked outside. "Oh, good. Nigel's there," said Bertie, who liked Nigel.

They walked up the steps and rang the bell. "I wonder who that can be?" said Stephanie to Nigel. "I'll just go and see. I'm not expecting anybody to call . . . Eeeeeek!" Her voice ended on a squeak as she opened the door and saw Winifred and Bertie standing there, looking more like country bumpkins than ever.

"Come in," said Stephanie quickly, hoping that her smart neighbours hadn't seen them.

Winifred beamed. "Thank you, Stephanie. We've come to see if there's anything we can do for you, in return for what you did for us," she said.

At that moment Nigel came up. "That's very kind of you, I must say, although we didn't expect anything, did we, Stephanie?" he said.

"Well, there must be something you need doing," said Bertie. "I mean, there's

bound to be things like lawns that want cutting, or hedges that want clipping."

Stephanie thought quickly. "Well, yes, as a matter of fact, I was saying only the other day that the garden needs to be tidied up." And she took Bertie out to the garden shed and showed him where the garden tools were.

Stephanie didn't mind at all if the neighbours saw Bertie working in the garden. "They'll think I've employed a gardener and they're sure to be jealous, for nobody else around here has one," she said to herself.

Stephanie went off to get the tea and Winifred cooked some cakes for her, because Stephanie had no idea how to cook cakes at all.

By the time they had finished and tea was ready, Bertie had finished the garden. All the weeds were pulled up, all the lawns had been cut and all the hedges had been trimmed. Looking very pleased with himself, Bertie went into the house.

"Come out here and look," he said.

"Look at what?" said Stephanie. "Really, country people are funny," she said to herself. "They can't even do a single job without getting everyone to go out and look at it." She patted her hair and smoothed her dress and out she went into the garden—and then she stopped and stared in surprise. Bertie had certainly cut the hedges, in the most

extraordinary way. The hedge right at the bottom of the garden was clipped beautifully into the shape of Stephanie herself!

Stephanie could hardly believe her eyes. She had never thought of having her portrait cut into a hedge before. She looked at it more carefully and then she gave a beaming smile. The figure stood so high that everyone in the area would be able to see it. At that very moment, Stephanie saw her next-door neighbour, Mrs. Topdrawer, peering at it and she really looked envious.

After Winifred and Bertie had gone home, Stephanie took a stroll around her garden and very pleased she felt too, when she saw all the heads peeping at her from nearby windows.

More adventures of the merry mice for you next week.

Here are the questions about the story "David Copperfield Goes to School" on page 10. Can you answer them?

1. When did Charles Dickens die?
2. Where is he buried?
3. What was the name of the school to which David was going?



Tiny Tim and the Forest Giant



1. The forest giant, who ate little boys, had put Tiny Tim and his six brothers into a basket. "Tomorrow I will fatten them up a bit," he growled. Then he ate his supper and fell asleep, not noticing that Tiny Tim found a hole in the basket.



2. Wriggling free, Tiny Tim walked under the table. The giant was in a deep sleep, and he did not move when Tiny Tim took off his boots. Now these were magic boots which altered in size to fit every wearer.



3. They were also seven league boots, because at each step they covered seven leagues, which is about twenty-one miles, exactly the distance from the giant's house to the Royal Palace. So with only one long stride, Tiny Tim reached the Palace. "What have we here?" gasped the King.



4. Tiny Tim told the story of how he and his six brothers had been captured by the forest giant. "I can take you to his house," said Tiny Tim. For years the King had been wanting to rid the land of the forest giant, so he sent his general and some of his army to find him. Seeing them, the giant ran away.



5. Inside the giant's house, they found Tiny Tim's six brothers and they set them free. Then they searched the place and came upon a room, stuffed with gold coins and jewellery which the giant had stolen from travellers.



6. The King was so pleased with Tiny Tim for helping him to get rid of such a terrible giant that he gave him a bag of gold to take home. "And that's not all," he said. "Take this scroll to your father—it makes him Royal Woodcutter."



7. When Tiny and his brothers arrived home with the bag of gold their parents were delighted. They had not been happy since the poor woodcutter had left the boys in the forest, and all the time they had been thinking about them. "We were so worried about you," Tiny Tim's mother said.

8. With some of the gold they bought a new home and all the food they needed. Happy to know that they would never again be hungry, they set about their work in the Royal forest. And each time his father and brothers cut down a tree, Tiny Tim planted a new one to replace it.



The WISE OLD OWL

Knows all the answers



The Wise Old Owl is here with the answers to some interesting questions.

1. What is the origin of the name "bank"? "The first bankers were money-changers who lived in Italy in the olden days, about 700 years ago. They carried on their business in the open market-place of the towns, using a bench as a counter for the money they handled. The Italian word for bench is "banca" and from it came the word bank. Nowadays, of course banking business is done inside buildings."



2. If a ship travels at 40 knots how many miles an hour is it? "On land a mile is 1,760 yards, but at sea it is 2,000 yards. The word knot means 'one sea mile per hour' so when a ship is moving at 40 knots, we mean it is travelling at about 46 land-miles per hour, like the torpedo-boat shown."



3. What was a Flying Fortress? "During the Second World War, heavy bombers were made in large numbers and for protection against fighter aircraft they carried as many guns as possible. One of these giant bombers was the Boeing 17, which became known as the Flying Fortress."



4. What were prairie schooners? "They were wagons with a white cloth top. People said they looked like sailing ships when seen from far off."



5. How old was Pelé when he played in the 1958 World Cup Final? "At that time this amazing footballer, who plays for Brazil, was only 17."